

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, April 9, 2012, 7:00 PM
Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR

“Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community.”

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members

Present:	Neal Klein, Chair	Karl Birky	Dianna Cotter	Shannon Eoff
	Ron Johns	Kari Lawson	James Oravetz	Mayor Bob Andrews, Ex-Officio

Members

Absent:	Doris Brandt (excused)	Hannah Kinney, Student Commissioner (excused)
	Lesley Woodruff (excused)	

Staff

Present:	Brian Casey, Police Chief	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer	Jennifer Nelson, Deputy City Recorder

Others

Present: Paul Agrimis and Don Clements

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Review and approve meeting minutes of March 12, 2012

MOTION #1: Oravetz/Birky to approve the Consent Calendar including the Traffic Safety Commission minutes for March 12, 2012, as presented. Motion carried (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Brandt, Woodruff]).

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. TSC-12-010 Signage Request from CPRD for Chehalem Heritage Trail
TIME – 7:02 PM

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report).

Mr. Paul Agrimis, Design Consultant of Vigil Agrimis Design Professionals, reviewed the vision of the Chehalem Heritage Trails to connect people to schools, parks, and facilities with over eighty miles of trails. They are currently working on the first phase which is sixteen miles and this summer they are planning to

assign existing roadways to the trail to create a central loop through Newberg. He offered historical background from 2009 with community meetings, identifying points of interest (including the Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg Public Library, The Allison, businesses and parks) and developing a network to connect all the way to Dundee. They developed way-finding signage for on-street and off-street trails with sketches and they are looking to start installing fifty signs this June. He showed an example of the signs and pointed out areas intended to have signs on a map (see official meeting packet for full report).

Commissioner Dianna Cotter asked for the definition of an IGA. Staff replied it is an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) and the City of Newberg for the funding and maintenance of the proposed signage.

Commissioner Karl Birky said this was a fantastic idea, but expressed some concerns for the problems discussed last month at the intersection on Sheridan Street and bicyclists turning there. He realized it was too late to change anything at this point, but did want to note his concern.

Mr. Agrimis said there will be a sign on Blaine Street at the railroad tracks to note the treacherous area and they are aware of problems at Sherman and Sheridan Streets as well.

Mayor Andrews asked if the signs would be integrated with the new bicycle/pedestrian route and wished to know who is responsible for the approval of the IGA. Mr. Chiu replied it was integrated with the bicycle/pedestrian plan and the IGA would be presented to Council at a later time. Mayor Andrews asked what the estimated costs were and who will bear those costs.

Mr. Don Clements, Superintendent of CPRD, replied he was also concerned about costs and met with the city's Maintenance Superintendent, Russ Thomas; they determined the material costs to be approximately \$100.00 to \$150.00 per sign to be paid for by CPRD. Mr. Thomas will order the signs and invoice CPRD. Installation of the sign requires approximately one half hour of staff time, which would be an additional \$100.00 so the total cost of the signs installed would be about \$200.00 to \$250.00 each, which would be the sole responsibility of CPRD to bear. If there is other signage required, the city would assist with that at an agreed to amount. Mayor Andrews asked for timelines of installation. Mr. Clements said it will depend on the maker of the signs; the city has already ordered some.

Mr. Chiu added public works maintenance staff ordered a number of bicycle signs for the bicycle/pedestrian program to be installed for June. When the Heritage Trail signs come in, they will be installed as received or soon after.

Mayor Andrews asked if there were any discussions about how the trail signs would coordinate with the needs of the Old Fashioned Festival. Mr. Clements replied that Mr. Thomas serves on the Old Fashioned Festival Board and is aware of their needs; although he is not sure how long this will take, Mr. Thomas did not indicate a problem during their discussions. Mr. Chiu stated he also has not heard from staff in regards to this.

Mayor Andrews asked if there has been any outreach to the neighborhoods for their acceptance of the additional signage. Mr. Clements said this was discussed but at this point there has not. When this was started they got responses on the trail itself, but we will not know the impacts until the signs are there; if there are negative impacts, then we will respond. In the trail system the city ordered bicycle signs that did not fit and we did not like; we ate the costs for those to make sure something presentable was provided.

Commissioner Cotter asked if they could estimate how many signs the city would be responsible for at this time. Mr. Clements replied around fifty locations, but currently he is not sure how much is the city share and how much ours. He is prepared to go out and make sure they get done as they are not sure what city funding is available for this. He just knows they are prepared to move ahead.

Chair Klein asked how much pedestrian vs. bicycle traffic are you anticipating on the trails. Mr. Agrimis stated the trails going from Memorial Park to Ewing Young will have more, on east side there are mostly bicycles, and in the center mostly pedestrians; it is hard to tell now what the balance will be. Chair Klein asked if there would be some on College Street or Meridian Street. Mr. Agrimis stated Meridian Street would be to connect to the south side of town and is consistent with the city plan for bicycles and pedestrians.

Mr. Chiu said details of IGA have yet to be worked out. This approval is not about the IGA, but only to get an endorsement from the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC).

Commissioner James Oravetz said he also rides and he was surprised to see 9th Street was a part of this because it is an unnerving street to ride on with so many apartments and cars pulling out. Mr. Agrimis replied it was necessary to make a connection crossing to Wynooski Road; part of the signage is to make people aware they are sharing the road with bikes and they do tend to slow down and see cyclists when they may not have previously.

Commissioner Cotter asked how they are coordinating this with the implementation of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass. Mr. Clements replied they have had a city representative on the steering committee with ODOT and State Parks and all different entities; they also submitted to ODOT on the proposed entries where they needed pedestrian and bicycle access, so they are aware. We also asked ODOT for right-of-way access along the Bypass and they are waiting for word on this.

Mayor Andrews asked if they were planning on painting more sharrows on road as more of the pedestrian/bicycle plan is adopted. Mr. Agrimis replied that was the original intention, but the city is not completely embracing the use of sharrows; they will support applying them in the future. Mayor Andrews followed up on Commissioner Cotter's concerns and added initial conversations are occurring now about issues surrounding access from the city to the waterfront and for pedestrians and bicyclists; ultimately there were to be easements for both on the Bypass, but with internal connecting up front. Discussions have occurred about accommodating this both physically and aesthetically for the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Police Chief Brian Casey asked about the proposed signage on city streets being adjacent to the curb or roadway and if to the curb would they eliminate on-street parking in those areas. Mr. Agrimis said they do not install bike lanes on shared roadways, but in future there will be bike lanes developed.

MOTION #2: Birky/Eoff to approve the Traffic Safety Commissions support the concepts presented and continued planning related to the Chehalem Heritage Trail. Motion carried (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Brandt, Woodruff]).

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. TSC-12-007 Meridian-3rd Stop Sign Request TIME – 7:30 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report and stated the traffic data collected did not warrant stop signs to be installed (see official meeting packet for full report).

Commissioner Birky asked staff to explain the specific meaning of the signs not being warranted. Mr. Chiu replied traffic volume is one criterion used to determine warranting and another is crash data at the location exceeding more than five accidents. If the volume was lower but the crashers higher, the safety issue could provide a higher consideration. Heavy pedestrian use is another factor that can also be used. There are a few other factors from the manual on uniform traffic devices as well. Commissioner Birky added there are specific numerical criteria that need to be met, if a city wants to provide a traffic device and those warrants must be met,

but are not sufficient alone for installing a signal; just because an area meets warrants, does not mean it should be put in, however, it must meet the value if you want to install it.

Mayor Andrews asked if there is anything added to warrants that brings in greenhouse gas mitigation in response to the stop and go traffic contributing to the environmental quality. Mr. Chiu replied he was not aware of any at this time. Commissioner Birky said it is a fact, but he does not think it is included as part of the criteria. The warrants developed are aimed at delays and safety; there are times when we have to make an exception, but this is not even close to meeting the warrant and it would be a mistake putting signs here.

Commissioner Ron Johns commented on the requestor's original issue being with the new bike trail and concerns with conflicts, but since we don't know whether or not the plan will bring more bikes then there may be no need for the signs.

The commissioners agree by consensus the signs were not warranted here and no action was taken. A vote was taken on both TSC-12-007 and TSC-12-008 following the report on TSC-12-008 directly below.

2. TSC-12-008 Meridian-5th Stop Sign Request
TIME – 7:44 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report and stated the traffic data collected did not warrant stop signs to be installed (see official meeting packet for full report).

Chair Klein asked about two written warnings being given for an accident on the south end with uncontrolled intersections and if the police are seeing an increase or plateau of incidents at intersections; he wanted to know what a written warning would be for. Chief Casey replied citations can be given to the person at fault for failing to yield to person on right; he did not believe there have been increases, spikes or trouble areas and commented these were low numbers and were typical.

MOTION #3: Oravetz/Cotter to approve the staff recommendations for TSC-12-007 and TSC-12-008 to leave the intersections at Meridian Street and 3rd Street and Meridian Street and 5th Street as they are and to take no action. Motion carried (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Brandt, Woodruff]).

3. Texaco

Mr. Chiu reported the owner of the Texaco gas station and requestor of the action reported business has been challenging and he will call in a couple of weeks when he decides if he will try to survive through the summer or close the doors on the business. As the motion to install the "Do Not Block Driveway" painting on the street is relying on the gas station only, he felt it may be better to hold off. If he decides to close, then a motion may be needed to vacate the decision or continue to implement it.

Chair Klein stated he did not want to see the signage go up if he decided not to stay open, but felt it was too early to make a decision now without enough information. Mr. Chiu suggested it could be a conditional situation on whether they continue with business or not.

Mayor Andrews recommended the commission consider concurring with staff to defer action until something definite is decided.

MOTION #4: Oravetz/Cotter to hold action on the installation at the Texaco gas station on 99W until confirmation is received from the business owner. Motion carried (7 Yes/0 No/2 Absent [Brandt, Woodruff]).

Commissioner Oravetz commented he noticed the gas station has already been closed for about a week and a half.

MOTION #5: Oravetz/ to install the painting and signage if it is confirmed the business will stay open and to not install and leave it to staff if the business closes. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Andrews suggested holding that kind of action until the business owner's decision is confirmed; then they can decide to continue or cancel the order on the "do not block" decision.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Police Update

Chief Casey followed-up on the concern about traffic backing up in the bike lane on Villa Road discussed at the previous meeting stating there are actually three lanes east of villa and he did not see anyone in the bike lanes, only in the actual turning lane; he said he will keep an eye on it. He spoke about increased activity downtown with First Friday ARTwalk and events at the Cultural Center and preparations being made for more patrolling downtown on foot and on bikes to make pedestrian and bicycle traffic safer in heavy traffic areas. He also spoke about trying to keep bicyclists off of the sidewalks as they are a danger to pedestrians.

Commissioner Oravetz wondered about how to get the information out to the public about not using the bicycle lanes as turning lanes. Chief Casey suggested putting an article in The Newberg Graphic and said a visible presence is the biggest factor in education.

Commissioner Eoff mentioned her concerns with telling children to ride bicycles on Portland Road because of the safety level and admitted to telling children to ride on the sidewalks, although this is normally discouraged. Chief Casey agreed he would also not allow children to ride on 99W and his concerns are geared more towards adults and professional bicyclists using the sidewalks instead of the roads; he encouraged bikes to be pushed and walked alongside when downtown.

Chair Klein asked if there would be bicycle patrols. Chief Casey replied in the summer, but not downtown because they need to use the bike lanes as well and they cannot be on the sidewalk.

2. Engineering Update

Mr. Chiu reported the College Street pedestrian and bicycle improvement by ODOT had a kick-off meeting with the consultant last week and there will be a survey happening soon in letters to homeowners along College Street. The request for proposal (RFP) for the Sheridan and College Street intersection went out in hopes of receiving a consultant by the deadline at the end of this week. The Safe Routes to School project with Joan Austin Elementary is also in active mode as staff and Councilor Ryan Howard are assisting with work on this.

3. Items from Commissioners

Ms. Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, spoke about the opportunity for outreach with the City of Newberg's booth at the Farmers' Market again this year. After discussion, it was determined the TSC would pass on participating with the booth this year.

Ms. Jennifer Nelson, Deputy City Recorder, reminded the commissioners to submit their responses for attendance to the Mayor's volunteer appreciation dessert on April 30th; the deadline for RSVPs is April 20th.

Mayor Andrews mentioned the approval of the impact study and discussions to pursue an IGA for a local match to the Newberg-Dundee Bypass efforts.

Commissioner Cotter spoke of a previous TSC members concerns with traffic in front of Mabel Rush Elementary where she now serves as a crossing guard; vehicle are speeding and she needs to know how she can follow-up with the police department when violations are occurring and how she can be supported in her efforts to keep children safe there. Chief Casey asked for her to call when consistent problems are occurring and they can help with patrolling in the area.

Commissioner Johns spoke about the “Tip a Cop” event to benefit Special Olympics in Oregon; it will be held at Li'l Cooperstown restaurant on May 23rd.


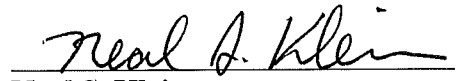
Chair Klein said he brought up the complete streets concept with the Planning Commission Chair at the last Mayor’s Cabinet meeting and they spoke about possibly working together in the future on this and maybe presenting it during a Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Birky added a note about “crashes” being the term used in the realm of traffic and how there are no such thing as “accidents”.

IX. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM until June 11, 2012.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 11th day of June, 2012.


Jennifer L. Nelson
Deputy City Recorder
Neal S. Klein
Traffic Safety Commission Chair